<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of maintaining extensible markup language (XML) documents comprising:

splitting an XML document into fragments according to rules ~~stored in a configuration file~~;

binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and

providing a reference between the XML document and the fragments.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

storing content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising

associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising

replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising

associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

detecting an outgoing reference to a object attribute.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

ensuring the reference is unique.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

setting the rules according to an application.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include configuration rules, the method further comprising:

analyzing content of the XML document using the configuration rules.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include sub-rules.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include encoding rules.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include a fragment rule that removes a fragment from the XML document and replaces the fragment with a reference.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include an unparsed object rule that extracts a string associated with an unparsed object and replaces the string with a reference.

14.   (Original) The method of 9 wherein the configuration rules include a hyperlink rule that replaces a link to another object attribute with a reference.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the sub-rules include a pattern rule that extracts textual content from a fragment.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the sub-rules include a attribute rule that assigns each object with an attribute type.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the attribute type includes logical object (LOIO) or physical object (PHIO).

18.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the sub-rules include a class rule that provides a class name to an object.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include internal entity encoding rules.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include external name encoding rules.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include unparsed object encoding rules.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include hyperlink encoding rules.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment includes a sub-fragment.
        binding the sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and
        providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

24.   (Currently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for executing instructions on a processor, the computer program product being operable to cause a machine to:
        split an XML document into fragments according to rules ~~stored in a configuration file~~;
        bind each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and
        provide a reference between the XML document and the fragments.

25.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to store the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

26.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to associate the content with a particular object in the content management system.

27.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to replace the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to associate multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

29.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the fragment includes a sub-fragment and the computer program product is further configured to:

 bind the sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

 provide a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

30.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

 a means for splitting an XML document into fragments according to rules ~~stored in a configuration file~~;

 a means for binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and

 a means for providing a reference between the XML document and the fragments.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for storing the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

35.　(Original)　The system of claim 30 further comprising:

　　　a means for binding a sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

　　　a means for providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

36.　(Currently amended)　A method comprising the steps of:

　　　a step of splitting an XML document into fragments according to rules ~~stored in a configuration file~~;

　　　a step of binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and

　　　a step of providing a reference between the XML document and the fragments.

37.　(Original)　The method of claim 36 further comprising a step of storing the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

38.　(Original)　The method of claim 36 further comprising a step of associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

39.　(Original)　The method of claim 36 further comprising a step of replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

40.　(Original)　The method of claim 36 further comprising a step of associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

41.　(Original)　The method of claim 36 further comprising:

　　　a step of binding a sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

　　　a step of providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.